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(54) THE: AN ANTIMICROBIAL MEDICAL DEVICE AND METHOD

(57) Abstract

The invention relates to an antimicrobial device made using polyurathane and antimicrobial agent, triclosan or a combination of triclosan with a biguanide or silver compound, that provides for a controlled release of the agent. The triclosan has the property of acting as a plasticizer in the polyurathane and being soluble therein.

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AN ANTIMICROBIAL MEDICAL DEVICE AND METHOD

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates generally to a medical device, and more particularly to an

5 antimicrobial medical device made from a polymeric material with an antimicrobial drug incorporated within the polymeric matrix, as well as a method for making such a device.

Many medical devices are made from polymeric 10 materials due to their mechanical properties and/or biocompatibility. Examples of such medical devices include CSF shunts, vascular grafts, endotracheal tubes, peritoneal and hemodialysis tubes, Foley catheters, and percutaneous catheters of all types.

15 However, a major medical complication associated with the use of indwelling medical devices is infection.

For catheters, the infection problem is well documented because catheters are so commonly used. Of the over 40 million patients hospitalized each 20 year, over one-half will have a catheter used as part of their medical procedure. Percutaneously and surgically inserted central venous catheters (CVCs) are used for the administration of fluids, drugs, total parenteral nutrition, and for hemodynamic 25 monitoring. The use of percutaneous catheters disrupt the body's primary barrier to infection, which is the intact skin surface. The wound tract created by catheter placement provides a direct route

for the invasion of microorganisms that cause infections. These infections are typically caused by microorganisms colonizing the surface of the skin.

Coagulase-negative staphylococci (CNS) is the 5 most common cause of vascular access infections. CNS reside as predominant members of the normal skin flora and possess the ability to adhere to and colonize indwelling medical devices. CNS are spherical, gram-positive organisms which cause a 10 variety of diseases in man. Because CNS frequently become drug-resistant, they have risen to a position of special significance in clinical medicine. CNS are uniquely adaptive in exploiting the microenvironment of a percutaneous foreign body.

15 Once established, removal of the device is often necessary to resolve the infection caused by these organisms.

Most CVCs are percutaneously placed acute catheters that have an estimated duration of about 20 one week. The most frequent life-threatening complication from the use of CVCs is septicemia. Even though the use is relatively short term, a CVC-related sepsis rate of 4% is typical. Such infections can prolong hospitalization by an average 25 of 7 days. Unfortunately, CVC-sepsis also has a 10-20% fatality rate.

In the case of a surgically implanted
Hickman-type catheter, the mean duration is
approximately 3 to 4 months. As a result, infection

30 is a constant threat because the presence of a
foreign body will, for a variety of reasons,
compromise the normal immune mechanisms of the host
against infection. For an immunocompromised patient,
especially those on chemotherapy, an infection may

35 result in the discontinuation of therapy,
rehospitalization and possibly additional surgery to
remove the implant, not to mention the costs and

risks associated therewith. Therefore, prevention of such infections is preferable to treatment, especially when associated with medical devices that are instrumental for patient care.

reduce Catheter related infection problems. Since these infections are most often associated with bacteria colonizing the catheter surface and forming a biofilm, many schemes have focused on preventing this from occurring. One approach is to reduce the adherence of bacteria to the catheter surface by changing its surface properties. Coating with hydrogels to make the surface more hydrophilic is effective for short periods. However, the main drawback to this approach is that the surfaces of the intravascular device will become conditioned by proteins in the blood, and many microorganisms have the ability to adhere to polymers and proteins.

A second approach involves the use of
antimicrobial agent delivered from the polymer. This
can be done with a compound that diffuses from the
device surface. Different techniques are available
to make a catheter into a controlled drug delivery
device. The use of a coating containing the drug of
interest is well known. The advantage of a coating
is that it can be applied to a finished device to add
the desired antimicrobial feature. However, there
are disadvantages, including limitations in the size
of the drug reservoir. There is a practical upper
limit of about 100 microns on the coating thickness
that can be easily applied. Many commercially
available devices have coatings that are only 10
microns thick.

Due to the propensity of CNS to colonize the 35 surfaces of medical devices, any strategy to prevent infection by incorporating an antimicrobial agent into polymers must first address the efficacy against

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CNS. The drug 2,4,4'-trichloro-2'-hydroxy diphenyl ether, commonly known as triclosan, is a synthetic antimicrobial agent that is commonly used as an adjunct in cosmetics, soaps and dermatological formulations. It also has limited water solubility, about 10-20 ppm.

Triclosan has a broad antimicrobial spectrum at low concentration and, is active against both gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria, yeast and other fungi. Also, this agent demonstrates a low toxicity and superior activity against CNS.

The approach taken herein is to incorporate an antimicrobial agent in the polymeric material used to make medical devices. However, it is often difficult to obtain the necessary physical characteristics in the polymeric material when combining the antimicrobial agent and the polymer.

It is, therefore, an object of the present invention to provide an antimicrobial medical device that incorporates an antimicrobial agent, or combination of agents, to prevent infections.

Another object of the present invention is to provide an antimicrobial medical device that releases an antimicrobial agent in a controlled manner to provide biocidal properties that are safe and long lasting.

Additional objects and advantages of the invention will be set forth in the description which follows, and in part will be obvious from the description, or may be learned by practice of the invention.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is directed to a medical device made of a polymeric material that

35 combines polyurethane and an antimicrobial agent, or combination of agents, that acts as a plasticizer in

the formation of the polymeric material. The antimicrobial agent is held in the polymeric matrices, so that migration is inhibited, causing the controlled release of the agent.

The present invention also provides a method of making the antimicrobial medical device wherein an antimicrobial agent is incorporated into the device by blending the agent into the polymer resin before or during extrusion.

The preferred antimicrobial agent is triclosan, which is particularly effective against staphylococci. Combinations of triclosan with biguanides or silver compounds can also be used in the present device. In polyurethane, triclosan will provide long lasting protection against colonization by a broad spectrum of microbes.

The controlled delivery of the antimicrobial agent from the polymeric material is apparently achieved by incorporating the triclosan in the 20 polymeric matrices. Triclosan has unexpected physical properties that render it soluble and completely miscible in polyurethane so that it acts as a plasticizer. As a result, the triclosan can have a high loading in the polyurethane without 25 causing a phase separation. Depending on the specific polymer, the triclosan may obviate the need to use a separate plasticizer in the polymeric material. The triclosan will soften the polymer for processing and provide a degree of elasticity in the 30 formed device. Triclosan is effective at killing certain skin flora, which is the source of infection for most percutaneous and indwelling medical devices.

The biguanides that may be used in the present invention in combination with the triclosan include chlorhexidine acetate, chlorhexidine qluconate, chlorhexidine hydrochloride and

chlorhexidine sulfate, as well as other salts of chlorhexidine. The silver compounds that may be used in the present invention in combination with the triclosan include silver acetate, silver benzoate, silver carbonate, silver iodate, silver iodide, silver lactate, silver laurate, silver nitrate, silver oxide, silver palmitate, silver protein, and silver sulfadiazine.

The medical devices made according to the 10 present invention include catheters, stents, shunts, drainage tubes and other percutaneous devices.

According to the present invention, the term "safe and effective amount" means an amount of antimicrobial agent and/or mixture thereof which is capable of retarding or preventing microbial colonization and adherence to the surface of the polymeric materials used herein while causing minimum undesirable side effects when in contact with living tissue. The amount delivered is above the minimum inhibitory concentration of the targeted microorganisms.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

Figure 1 is a graph of the serial zone transfer data for extruded blended tubing of the 25 present invention and 5% swell loaded tubing.

Figure 2 is a graph of the serial zone transfer data for the explanted samples tubing used in the in-vivo studies.

Figure 3 is a graph of the assay data for the 30 explanted tubing samples used in the in-vivo studies.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

According to the invention, the simplest method of incorporating the antimicrobial agent, triclosan, is by direct compounding of the drug into the urethane resin before extrusion. It is a low

cost process and the resulting drug reservoir is large. This can be done only because the drug is compatible with the polymeric material. In addition, polyurethane is easily shaped into three-dimensional structures. Once molded, the formed antimicrobial products are dimensionally stable even after repeated exposure to boiling water and moderately high temperatures.

According to the invention, the term 10 "polyurethane" means a thermoplastic polymer produced by the condensation reaction of a polyisocyanate and a hydroxyl-containing material, including ether-based polyurethane, ester-based polyurethane, poly(ether urethane urea), silicone urethane, in particular, 15 aliphatic or aromatic diisocyanates used in various combinations with polyether, aliphatic or aromatic polyester soft segments to make the thermoplastic polyurethane. Soft segments include high molecular weight polyols with glass transition temperatures 20 typically below room temperature. The preferred polyurethanes have soft segment compositions that are polyether-based or are highly aliphatic. Less preferred polyurethanes are those with polyester soft segments.

The polyurethane must be biccompatible, elastomeric and processable, as well as be able to solubilize triclosan. The polymeric material acts as a reservoir for the triclosan and uniform distribution acts to optimize the loading. For 30 example, triclosan can be incorporated in amounts up to 30% by weight in Tecoflex 80A with no phase separation problems. Tecoflex is a registered trademark of Thermedics, Inc. Tecoflex 80A is an 80 Shore A durometer thermoplastic polyether urethane 35 manufactured using an aliphatic diisocyanate and polyether soft segment.

In the polyurethanes of the present invention, the triclosan acts as a plasticizer. Generally, plasticizers are used in processing polymer materials to soften and improve flow during 5 extrusion without causing any significant loss in other physical properties, such as stiffness, elongation set, etc. Plasticizer can also be used to lower the durometer of a polymeric device. However, the typical plasticizer will leach out slowly and can 10 be toxic. The present use of triclosan alleviates this concern.

At over 30% triclosan loading, the polymeric material becomes soft, sticky and unacceptable for forming the medical devices of the present invention.

15 The preferred loading of triclosan is in the range of 0.5 to 15.0 percent by weight. The more preferred loading of triclosan is in the range of 1.0 to 10.0 percent by weight. The most preferred loading of triclosan is in the range of 5.0 to 10.0 percent.

20 The ultimate loading to attain the required physical properties is dependent, in part, on the durometer of the polymer used. The loading of the triclosan in the present invention can be obtained for durometer values from 75 Shore A to 60 Shore D. For a given

Extrusion requires that the antimicrobial agent have good thermal stability, which is satisfied by triclosan since it exhibits no significant decomposition below 280-290°C. Triclosan has a measurable vapor pressure at higher temperatures. According to the method of the present invention, extrusion of Tecoflex EG-80A resin is typically carried out at about 160-175°C.

loading is higher for polyurethanes of greater

durometer.

As shown by the present invention, due to its chemical properties, the drug delivery

characteristics of triclosan from polyurethane are
well suited for antimicrobial devices. Triclosan is
very soluble in urethane and can diffuse through the
polymeric material. The triclosan is incorporated
into the polymeric matrix and is released when the
device is used. When a medical device of the present
invention is first inserted into the body, the
concentration of drug immediately adjacent to the
device depends on the initial concentration of the
triclosan, the partition coefficient between the
polymer and water, the diffusivity of the triclosan
in the urethane, and the rate the drug is swept away
from the device.

As used herein, the partition coefficient can be set forth by the following equation:

partition coefficient = wt.% drug in water polyurethane

20 As shown by the present invention, 5% triclosan loading in 80A polyurethane has a partition coefficient of less than 1×10⁻⁴.

In addition to the rate of diffusion, the drug delivery rate is also limited by the very low 25 solubility of triclosan in water and its very low partition coefficient between water and polyurethane. These factors prevent the drug from reaching a saturated concentration that is, for example, cytotoxic to red blood cells. In measurements taken 30 in a phosphate buffered saline solution, triclosan has saturation concentration of 16 ppm, which is safe and not toxic to red blood cells. However, the delivery rate is such that the concentration of the drug at the polymer surface is above the minimum 35 inhibitory concentration (MIC) of the targeted microbes so as to be effective. The medical devices of the present invention have the resulting advantageous property of a long duration of activity.

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There are several alternative methods that can be used for incorporating the antimicrobial agent into the polymeric material. For example, the resin pellets can be "tumble coated" with triclosan; the sesin pellets can be compounded with triclosan using a twin screw compounder; the starting ingredients can be pelletized together using a twin screw machine; and the resin pellets can be compounded with the triclosan using an extruder/compounder machine.

Compounding the triclosan and extruding in a single process step is preferred, because the resulting material will have a higher durometer. These methods of compounding the antimicrobial agent into the resin result in the triclosan being uniformly distributed and incorporated into the polymeric matrix.

When using the twin screw compounder, the resin pellets, triclosan and other ingredients, such as fillers and pigments, can also be fed into the compounder at a suitable rate. In the compounder, the ingredients are melted, blended and then extruded into strands. The strands may be pelletized and dried prior to further processing. The homogeneous pellets of polymer and triclosan, prepared as described above, may be remelted and molded or extruded into the desired shape of the medical device.

EXAMPLE

Polyurethane tubing was fabricated with triclosan incorporated directly into the polymer

30 Using a loading of triclosan of 5.2 ± .4% by weight. Table 1 shows the tubing samples that were produced. The formulation for the tubing was generally the same as for the Tecoflex products available from Strato Medical, except for the addition of the antimicrobial agent. Also, tubing without the triclosan was made for use in tests as a control.

Table 1.	Polyureibane	aniduT	with Tri	elaska.

	1.	Tecoflex EG-80A-B20	Blue (293)	single lumes	0.110 x 0.065	5% triclosas
	2.	Tecoñex EG-80A-BIO	Blue (293)	single lumen	0.110 x 0.065	0% triclosaa (control)
	3.	Tecoffee EG-85A-820	Blue (293)	single lumen	0.110 x 0.063	5% triclosea
5	4.	Tecoffex EG-85A-B20	Blue (293)	single lumen	0.110 x. 0.065	0% triclosas (control)

All the resins used were 20% by weight of barium sulphate for radiopacity. The triclosan was blended directly into the Tecoflex resin, which was repelletized by a water pelletizer and extruded to form the tubing. The extrusion was performed without any difficulties. The plasticizer effect of the triclosan permitted the extrusion to be performed at lower temperatures, which may offer a manufacturing advantage.

- The physical characteristics of tubing made by the present invention were compared with the control tubing made with triclosan and similar commercially available tubing. For example, the surface of the extruded tubing of the present
- invention was inspected under an optical microscope. It was found that both the exterior and intraluminal surfaces of the tubing of the present invention were smoother than the control samples and commercially available samples of 9 Fr. tubing from Strato
- 25 Medical. At room temperature, the drug loaded formulations were not sticky and exhibited no blocking behavior. At 40°C, the 80A tubing with drug was softer but did not block. At 60°C, the 85A tubing blocked slightly, but the lumen would spring
- 30 back open. However, at 60°C, the 80A tubing tended to stay closed when squeezed.

Both the tubing and the compounded pellets used to produce the tubing were assayed for triclosan

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content by the UV-vis method. From the results presented in Table 2, it appears that little, if any, triclosan was lost due to the pelletizing and extrusion processes.

Table 2

5

	Sample	* Triclosan (w/w)
	EG-80A-820 pellets + triclosan	
	EG-85A-B20 pellets + triclosan	5.4 ± 0.2
	EG-80A-820 tubing + triclosan	4.9 ± 0.03
10	EG-85A-B20 tubing + triclosan	5.1 ± 0.1

Serial zone transfer tests were performed with the extruded 80A and 85A tubing. These test results were compared with some tests for "5%" solvent swell loaded tubing, which was prepared as 15 described below. The zone tests are used to measure a "zone of inhibition," which means a region containing a sufficient concentration of antimicrobial agents that growth and reproduction of microorganisms within the zone are halted. The test 20 organism was Staph, epidermidis and blood agar was the media. The test data showed that there was sustained delivery of the triclosan over several days.

Figure 1 contains the data from the serial

25 Zone transfer tests, which are plotted as size of the

Zone versus time. It was discovered that the 85A

tubing and the 5% swell loaded tubing had the same

Zone behavior during the 5 day test period. Zone

size is only moderately sensitive to the drug

30 delivery rate.

Rabbit Implantation In-Vivo Studies:

Triclosan that was swell loaded into polyurethane tubing was used for feasibility in-vivo studies, as described below. The zone tests conducted on swell loaded polyurethane tubing showed results that were similar to using the blended ingredients.

Dised as a method for mimicking the blending by or before extrusion of the present invention,

swell loading is a simple technique which involves soaking the polyurethane article in a solution containing the triclosan, drying it, and then performing a quick rinse. Swell loading, however, yields a non-uniform drug distribution. In addition,

a major drawback of swell loading is that some polymer is extracted and other additives, such as extrusion lubricants and stabilizers, can be leached out as well. The direct blending of the triclosan in the present invention does not have these

disadvantages.

For these studies, tube samples with nominal values of "5%" and "10%" of triclosan were prepared by swell loading. The 5% swell loaded tubing contained in the range of 5.5 to 6.1% triclosan, by weight, and the 10% swell loaded tubing contained about 13.9% triclosan, by weight.

The swell loaded tubing was cut into 2 cm segments and sterilized. The lumen of the tube sections were left open. Control sets of tubing with 30 no drug were also prepared. The tube samples were implanted intramuscularly in the backs of white New Zealand rabbits. For each point in time when explants were to be taken, samples of six tube segments for each type of loaded tubing and two 35 control tubing were prepared and implanted. Explants were taken at 30, 60 and 90 days.

Upon retrieval, the implant sites were examined macroscopically and all samples were scored as benign. Further histopathology tests on the implant sites confirmed these initial observations.

5 While rabbit implant studies were not designed to measure long term biostability of materials, nevertheless, the samples tested showed only minor differences between the drug and non-drug loaded samples. The time zero and 90 day explants 10 were inspected and examined under the microscope for surface changes. Prior to implant, after swell loading and sterilization, all sample surfaces appeared fairly glossy. The drug loaded 90 day implants had a dull surface with no gloss. 15 surface of the control 90 day implant still had some gloss. Photomicrographs were taken at 200 or 500 magnification in reflectance mode with crossed polarizers. All the samples showed a surface with some striations and tiny knobby features. There is 20 no chemical reason why triclosan would have any adverse effect on a polyether urethane. In addition, by way of comparison, the biostability of the Tecoflex material has been studied extensively and has been shown to be acceptable for a wide range of 25 applications.

Zone of inhibition assays were performed using the recovered explanted samples as well.

Figure 2 shows the data plotted as zone size versus time. The test organism was Staph. epidermidis in two different types of agar, i.e., MH and blood agars. After 90 days, both the 10% and 5% samples were still active. As clearly shown in Figure 2, the 10% drug samples give bigger zones than the 5% samples. The results showed that the delivery of the triclosan was not controlled only by the aqueous solubility, since the 10% and 5% samples did not have the same size zones, but may also be controlled by

the diffusion rate in the polymeric material.

Distribution of the triclosan in the polymeric material will also be a factor in the delivery rate.

In addition, the triclosan content of the sexplanted samples were assayed by dissolving the polymer in solvent and measuring the triclosan concentration by UV-vis spectrophotometry. The drug concentrations from the explanted samples are listed in Table 3 below.

10 Table 3
Drug Totals on Explanted Tubing Samples
Percent Drug by Weight

15	Sample 90	Days	0	30	60	
20	"5%" Tubing 0.19		6.1	2.8	0.75	
	"10%" Tubing 0.61		13.9	5.5	1.62	

As shown in Figure 3, plotting the above data shows an exponential decay. The above tests show that the extruded blended tubing can be expected to perform as intended and to be effective over an extended period of time. Triclosan present in an 30 amount of about 5%, by weight, will be effective for about 45 days against a microorganism with an MIC of about 1 ppm.

The medical devices made from polyurethanes and triclosan in the present invention will provide long lasting protection against infection. The triclosan will be delivered in an amount that is above the minimum inhibitory concentration of the

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targeted microorganisms, including CNS, to prevent colonization of the device surface.

Finally, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the 5 art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly all suitable modification and equivalents may fall within the scope of the invention.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1. A medical device comprising a polymeric material containing polyurethane; and an antimicrobial agent that acts as a plasticizer in 5 said polymeric material and is soluble in said polyurethane, wherein said antimicrobial agent is homogeneously incorporated into said polymeric material and is released from said polymeric material in the presence of biological tissue or fluid in an 10 effective amount to prevent microbial colonization on surfaces of said medical device and in the tissue or fluid surrounding said surfaces.
 - The medical device according to Claim 1
 wherein said antimicrobial agent comprises triclosan.
- 3. The medical device according to Claim 1 wherein said antimicrobial agent comprises triclosan and a biguanide or silver compound.
- 4. The medical device according to Claim 2 wherein said polymeric material has a durometer value 20 in the range of 75 Shore A to 60 Shore D.
 - 5. The medical device according to Claim 4 wherein said triclosan is present in an amount of up to 30 percent by weight of said polymeric material.
- 6. The medical device according to Claim 2
 25 Wherein said triclosan is present in an amount in the range of 0.5 to 15 percent by weight of said polymeric material.
- 7. The medical device according to Claim 6
 Wherein said triclosan is present in an amount of
 30 about 5 percent by weight and is effective for about

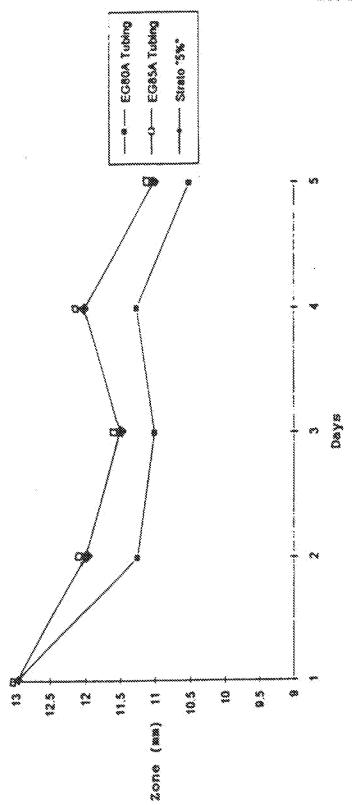
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45 days against a microorganism with a minimum inhibitory concentration of about 1 ppm.

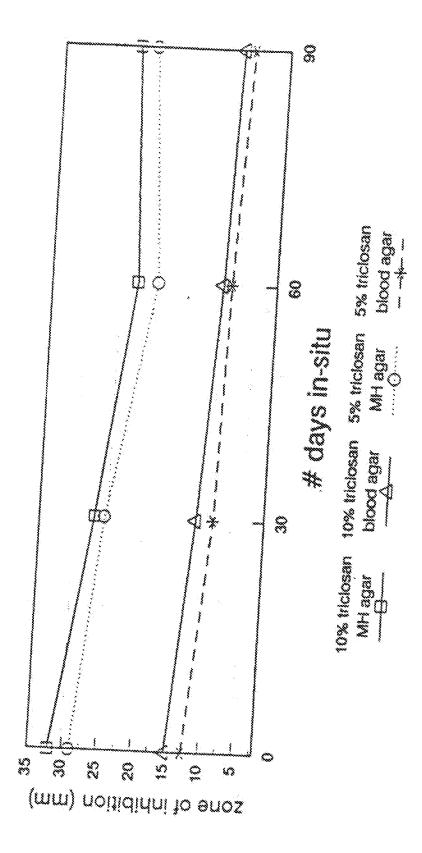
- 8. The medical device according to $Claim\ 7$ wherein said triclosan has a partition coefficient of less than 1×10^{-4} .
 - 9. The medical device according to Claim 6 wherein said triclosan is present in an amount in the range of 5.0 to 10 percent by weight of said polymeric material.
- 10. The medical device according to Claim 1 wherein said polyurethane comprises an aliphatic diisocyanate and polyether soft segments.
- 11. The medical device according to Claim 1
 Where said polyurethane comprises an aromatic
 15 diisocyanate and aliphatic soft segments.
 - 12. The medical device according to Claim 1 wherein said polymeric material is formed into a catheter.
- 13. The medical device according to Claim 1 20 wherein said polymeric material is formed into a drainage tube.
 - 14. The medical device according to Claim 1 wherein said polymeric material is formed into a stent.
- 25 15. The medical device according to Claim 1 wherein said polymeric material is formed into a shunt.

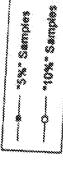
- 16. A method for making an antimicrobial medical device comprising blending a polyurethane resin and up to 30 percent of triclosan, by weight, to form a polymeric material, whereby said triclosan is releasably incorporated into said polymeric material; and said triclosan being solubilized in said polyurethane as a plasticizer.
- 17. The method according to Claim 16 wherein said blending comprises extruding said resin and 10 triclosan to make said medical device.
 - 18. The method according to Claim 16 wherein said polyurethane resin is polyether-based.
- 19. The method according to Claim 16 wherein said polymeric material has a durometer value in the 15 range of 75 Shore A to 60 Shore D.

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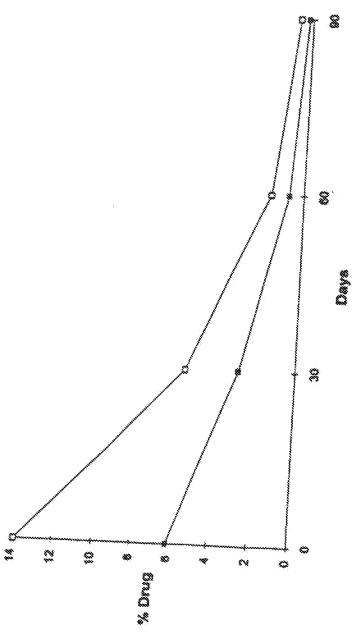


Figure 3

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No. PCT/US96/00842

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC(6) :A6IL 29/00, 31/00				
US CL. :424/400, 405, 486; 523/122; 604/264 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC				
B. FIELDS SEARCHED	***************************************	****		
Minimum documentation searched (classification system follow	ved by classification symbols)			
U.S. : 424/400, 403, 486				
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